

# **Washington State Association of County Engineers**

WACO/WSAC Joint Conference  
October 1, 2003  
WSACE Business Meeting – Part 1

Jerry Hawth called the meeting to order and roll call was read (23 of 39 counties present).

1. President's Report – Jerry Hawth  
Discussion on By-Law Changes to the term of the East and West District officers resulted in the term to remain as they currently exist at two years per term.
2. President Elects Report – Phil Merrell
  - Committee Reports  
Ross Dunfee reported on the status of the Cascade County accounting software program purchase. Each county that wants to purchase off of Benton County. purchase agreement needs to decide for themselves if the sole source method used for the purchase is justified for their county.

Past President - Tim Fife had nothing to report.

Professional Development – Kent Cash noted that the training will be moved to January 21-23, 2004 and they are confirming the speakers.

Salary Survey – Reid Wheeler noted that CD's were passed out at the Summer conference. The update is done every other year, with next year being the off year.

Membership – Karen Pendleton noted there are two new members.

Legislative/Law – Phil Merrell noted that the list of issues will be presented at this Joint Conference.

Stormwater West Side – Jeff Monson noted that NPDES Phase II implementation is still being developed.

Stormwater East Side – Ross Dunfee noted that DOE's east side manual second review is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year and that the general and Construction Permits of DOE are not completed yet. Ross would like to have a replacement to his committee position by next spring.

Design Standards – It was noted that the Low Volume Road Standards were adopted as part of the Design Standards.

Bridge Replacement – Jerry Bryant noted that the existing conditions are better than in past years of bridges selected for replacement.

Local Agency Guidelines – New criteria for material testing.

NACE – Kent Cash noted an increase of \$20 for dues.

3. Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Dale Rancour  
Treasurer's report reflects minimal account activity since last report, and a balance of \$34,604.35.
4. Eastern District Report – Derek Pohle  
Derek deferred to Jolene Gosselin, who announced that Douglas County will be hosting a field trip on approximately October 20, 2003 on their Innovative Bridge Fund project using a fiber-reinforced polymer deck placed over an existing timber Howe truss.
5. Agency Presentations
  - CRAB (Jay Weber & Walt Olson)  
Report was handed out.

It was also noted that there will be a County Engineer training in November.

Walt advised that those County Engineers asked to assist will be getting information regarding format soon.

Al King noted that several counties have been asked by the Department of Natural Resources to sign seemingly proposed easement agreements – no further counties sign the agreements until the language and costs can be resolved.

- WSDOT Highway and Local Programs (Kathleen Davis)  
Handout of the Highway and Local Program Department organization was discussed.

It was noted that Brian Hassalback will be back working on environmental issues.

Handout of distribution of funds was discussed.

There was much discussion of the possible changes associated with the upcoming Federal Highway Program. Federal law protects the portion distributed based on population. For 2004, past distribution processes will be followed, but there will be no new program requests for Safety (HES) and Enhancement funded projects. Since the new Federal Highway Program is nicknamed SAFETEA, there was much discussion about the possibility of additional discretionary funds beyond those distributed based on population that could go to the counties. There were concerns that the distribution of these funds by past practices has been determined by a group referred to as the gang of eight which does not include representation from the counties. Kathleen noted that it is necessary that the funding level be established before more discussion on distribution between the state and local agencies can occur. There was much discussion on coordinating with policy makers and preparing data to justify county needs for

additional safety funding. There will be more discussion of this at tomorrow's round table discussion.

- Transportation Improvement Board (Steve Gorcester)

Steve noted that there were 384 applications received for \$67 million of grant funds. The draft priority rating of these applications will be completed by the end of the month, Board action on November 21, with funds available on July 1, 2004. They are working on possible revisions to their application/priority criteria.

6. Mobility Demonstration (Steve Hillesland)

Mobility has been tested and is in its final review before release. It uses forms versus grids for ease of input.